

## Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

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### **Veteran Affairs and Military Installations and Defense Affairs and State Federal Relations to hold interim hearing in San Antonio, Texas**

(SAN ANTONIO) -- The Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, chaired by Senator Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio) and House Committee on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations, chaired by Representative Frank J. Corte, Jr. (R-San Antonio) are meeting September 9, 2008, in San Antonio.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Military City USA. I look forward to being able to work together with the various stakeholders to formulate an effective solution to meet the challenges of growth and to strengthen the relationship between the military installations and the city," said Corte.

The Committees will discuss the relationships between military installations and their surrounding communities and make recommendations addressing encroachment and quality of life; the interim hearing will be held in conjunction with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Department of Defense (DOD) Military Sustainability Summit.

"Texas lawmakers have developed innovative partnerships with military bases and their home communities that are benefiting citizens and the state. This exemplary work can be a model for other states. The NCSL has created a Military Sustainability task force so state legislators throughout the nation can learn first hand from the Texas model how partnering with military installations can bring significant improvements to the quality of life for residents and military personnel," said Bill Pound, Executive Director of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"This is a great opportunity for the Department of Defense to work with Senator Van de Putte and the state of Texas to champion critical sustainability initiatives protecting our nation's military installations and its testing and training ranges," said Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health). "We applaud the Senator's efforts and look forward to working with her in the future through the National Conference of State Legislatures' Military Sustainability Task Force."

State legislators from Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Virginia have been invited to attend the conference; the public will also have an opportunity to make statements concerning the committee's interim charge.

"The missions of our fighting forces are critically important when national security has a profound effect on each state's economy. I am anxious to learn and share from other states' perspectives and the DOD; to ensure that Texas does all it can for our brave men and women in uniform," said Van de Putte.

The hearing, which is open to the public, will be at 1:00 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium, located at 100 Auditorium Circle, San Antonio, Texas.